

I strongly support the restructuring and licensing requirement changes proposed by the NCVEC. The new Communicator entry level license with limited power and HF privileges should serve to spark greater interest in the amateur radio hobby. Eliminating the Element 1 (Morse code) requirement from licensing should also serve to increase the number of licensees who have demonstrated an advanced level of knowledge of radio communications technology by removing an unnecessary roadblock. Although Morse code is an important mode of communications, the ability to send and receive Morse code has no direct bearing on the technical competency of a particular licensee. Upgrading Technician class licensees is also a sound decision as the current exams for Element 2 and Element 3 are nearly identical and there is very little in the way of technical concepts and depth of knowledge required of a General class licensee that is not adequately demonstrated by a Technician class licensee.

Overall, this petition, once implemented, would greatly streamline the licensing of amateur radio operators. I believe these proposed changes would make the amateur radio service stronger by making the hobby more accessible to a greater number of Americans while also doing a much better job of promoting advancement from within.